

**LATE**



## **O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

### **RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 56 and HR 57**

To the Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 56 and HR 57. The O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCDCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR 56 and HR 57.**

HCR 56 and HR 57 request the Department of Education to establish training programs for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") is committed to ending the scourge of violence against [children and] women - wherever it occurs – whether in our homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. DPH will support comprehensive services for survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to [child abuse and neglect, and] sexual assault – wherever it occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to survivors and ensure a fair process for all . . . in the criminal justice system. We will increase violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent and bystander intervention . . . *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 21-28.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to provide comprehensive support to survivors and to ensure a fair process for all, OCDCLP supports HCR 56 and HR 57 and urges their passage out of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

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**HR-57**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 2:27:11 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Husted	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

March 27, 2019

My name is Claire E. Husted, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will educate both parents and teachers on how to prevent child abuse (e.g., learning how to listen and communicate effectively in the family to de-escalate anger and violence, prevention of bullying in the schools, and conflict resolution skills, etc.). Prevention is the first step and very necessary step in any early intervention process. It also educates teachers and parents the signs and symptoms of abuse so that it can be reported early to the proper authorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this bill, which is of great importance to our future generations.

Respectfully,

Claire E. Husted, Peace Corps Volunteer, South Africa

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**HR-57**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 3:06:42 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support!

**HR-57**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:52:33 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Husted	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

March 26, 2019

My name is Bryan Husted, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will help prevent abuse and bullying from happening in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Bryan Husted

bhusted@itesm.mx

**HR-57**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:26:57 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Sanford	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

March 26, 2019

My name is Nora Husted Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will make life changing impacts on our children. This resolution needs to be amended to include the words "Preventative Training" in it. Let me explain...

In 2005, my student, Talia Williams, was killed at the hands of her father. As a teacher I had years of training on how to identify abuse after it happened. Every day Talia came to school was another day I missed the carefully concealed signs and symptoms of her abuse. In the end, the system failed her, I failed her.

I ask you, what could have been done differently? After years of woulda, coulda, shouldas, I have concluded that the educational requirement to only train teachers to identify abuse is only part of the solution. The missing part of the solution is to include the families and students and teach all stakeholders in education the fundamental skills that will reduce the incidence of abuse BEFORE it happens.

What is this you ask? Think about it. When we get angry, how well do we communicate? For those individuals inclined to take out their anger and frustration in physical ways, abuse and bullying happen. Instead, if all parents, educational staff and students were provided with Preventative training at the beginning of school in how to listen for understanding, how to communicate effectively, and how to resolve conflict, then everyone is equipped with the skills needed in life. Problems happen, conflict is inevitable. But when parents, staff, and students learn and practice these basic skills,

when conflict does arise, it is dealt with in a healthy manner and ultimately the incidences of abuse and bullying will decline.

I challenge you to consider the trajectory our children are on. Undealt with anger at home effects the children. Children either implode or explode. Their emotions can go inward resulting in self harm or even worse suicide. Their emotions can explode resulting in bullying, behavioral problems, or violent retaliation. The impact of abuse is far reaching .

If one of the missing pieces to the puzzle of reducing abuse in our state is simply communication, then we must address it, teach and practice it with our families, staff and students BEFORE more children get hurt and die. I request that you amend this resolution to include the words "Preventive Training" because we need to prevent abuse before it happens so we can keep all of our children safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Nora Husted Sanford, MEdL

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